

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 2, 2004 has been reviewed, and the application is amended herein in an effort to place same in condition for allowance.

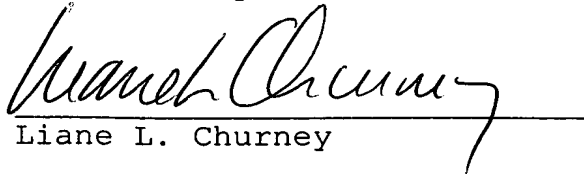
Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of Claims 1-3, 6-14, 18-20, 27-32, 35, 36, 39-43, 45-48, and the indication of allowable subject matter relative to Claims 24 and 25.

Claims 22, 23, 26 and 44 stand rejected as anticipated by Mollenkopf (U.S. Patent No. 4 391 073). While Applicants believe that Claims 22, 23, 26 and 44 patentably distinguish over Mollenkopf, independent Claim 22 is amended herein to include the portion of allowable Claim 24 which the Examiner recites on page five of the Office Action in his reasons for allowance, solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. More specifically, Claim 22 is amended to recite that the C-shaped clamps have respective upper portions which interlock with a lower portion of the top cap. Claim 24 is accordingly amended to conform to amended Claim 22, and Claim 23 is amended solely for clarification purposes. Claim 22, and Claims 23, 26 and 44 which depend therefrom, are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 26 and 44 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. These claims are amended herein in a manner believed to overcome the instant rejection.

In view of the above, the instant application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and action toward that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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